

Washington, D. C. 20505

29 AUG 1977

Dear Bud,

Thanks so much for the invitation to your Change of Command ceremony on the 27th of August. I have just returned from a brief trip to Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, and I'm afraid my schedule just won't accommodate another trip to the West Coast in the near future.

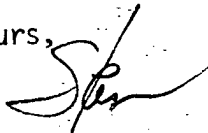
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My Aide, [redacted] was a Department Head on one of your ships and he tells me you were an outstanding Commodore. I'm not at all surprised at his assessment. I still look back on our time together on HORNE as having been the most enjoyable and rewarding of my naval career.

BUPERS tells me you're going to retire in November. I am astonished and disappointed for the Navy. What you and Vali want, however, I want too. I want you to know how much I have valued your support and friendship over the years. All of us in the Navy will miss the leadership you have provided in such abundance.

All the best as you embark on new adventures.

Yours,



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